REMARKS

Restriction Requirement:

Applicants elect to prosecute on the merits in this application the subject matter of Group I, claims 22-38, drawn to a method of characterizing a target organism suspected of being a member of a given taxonomic group. Applicants respectfully request that the claims of Group I be examined. Group II, which contains claim 48, alleged to be drawn to a kit for characterizing target organisms suspected of being a member of a given taxonomic group comprising at least one pair of intronic region-specific primers, is canceled without prejudice, subject to the filing of a divisional application.

SUMMARY

If the Examiner believes that it would facilitate prosecution, Applicant and Co-Inventor, Rhonda Honeycutt, may be contacted at (760) 930-0642 or at honeycutt@claritybiosciences.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 12, 2006

By: Khonda Honeyout Ph D

By: Michael McClelland, Ph.D.

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